

## Message Text

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ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /011 W  
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R 101235Z AUG 76  
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8171

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1587

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APUB BPUB GB

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL PROGRAM: COMMERCIAL REFERENCE FACILITIES

REF: STATE A-3443

1. EMBASSY MAINTAINS A VERY SMALL COMMERCIAL READING ROOM LOCATED IN OFFICE OF OUR ONE FSL COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT. SPACE LIMITATIONS IN CHANCERY PRECLUDE OUR EXPANDING READING ROOM, BUT WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ECONOMIZE ON SPACE BY DISCARDING OUTDATED PUBLICATIONS AND BY LIMITING READING ROOM TO ITEMS WHICH ARE STRICTLY COMMERCIAL IN NATURE. IN ADDITION TO READING ROOM, OFFICE OCCUPIED BY ECONOFF HAS SHELF SPACE UTILIZED FOR MORE SPECIALIZED PUBLICATIONS, E.G., IMF STATISTICS, MINERALS YEARBOOKS, ETC., WHICH ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO VISITORS AS APPROPRIATE. SHELF SPACE IN BOTH AREAS TOTALS ONE HUNDRED TWENTY LINEAR FEET.

2. PRECISE NUMBER OF VISITORS USING COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC REFERENCE FACILITIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT WE ESTMATE SOME FOUR LOCAL BUSINESSMEN AND UP TO TEN U.S. BUSINESSMEN CALL AT CHANCERY PER WEEK, THE LATTER PRIMARILY FOR DATA ON ECONOMY OF GABON.

3. PUBLICATIONS RANGE IS SMALL AND NOW INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: 1969 SWEET'S CATALOG, 1976 THOMAS REGISTER, 1976 MARCONI INTERNATIONAL REGISTER, 1972 CENSUS OF MANUFACTURERS, DIRECTORY OF INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, 1974 DUN AND BRADSTREET DIRECTORY, 1970 DUN AND BRADSTREET MILLION DOLLAR AND MIDDLE MARKET  
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DIRECTORIES, US TARIFF SCHEDULE, AND 1972 SIC MANUAL.

CURRENT TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES ARE ON HAND FOR MOST OF MAJOR US CITIES. EMBASSY ALSO MAINTAINS FILE ORGANIZED ALONG MAJOR PRODUCT LINES FOR LITERATURE AND CATALOGS FORWARDED TO US BY INDIVIDUAL US COMPANIES.

4. EMBASSY CANNOT JUSTIFY GREATLY EXPANDED COMMERCIAL LIBRARY FACILITY AT THIS TIME, BUT WE CAN IMPROVE ON QUALITY OF MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESS VISITORS. WE ARE MAKING COMPLETE INVENTORY OF PUBLICATIONS AND WILL BE PLACING ORDERS FOR SEVERAL ITEMS LISTED IN REPAIR WHICH WOULD BE OF VALUE IN OUR COMMERCIAL PROGRAM.

4. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE MERGER OF USIS AND COMMERCIAL LIBRARIES WOULD BE FEASIBLE AT THIS POST. WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO DIFFICULTY THUS FAR WITH SEPARATE OPERATIONS AND ANTICIPATE NONE IN FUTURE. USIS LIBRARY/ CULTURAL CENTER HAS NO ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR COMMERCIAL LIBRARY, WHICH IN ANY EVENT SHOULD BE ADJACENT TO OFFICES FO ECONOFF AND COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT TO MAXIMIZE BENEFIT TO VISITORS.

5. SIC INTEREST AREAS LIST POUCHED AUGUST 10. STEIGMAN

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